

## INSTITUTE STRESSES MILITARY-CIVIL LINKS

### Rusk Suggested Leadership Forum

—\$35 Million in Funds Sought

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By WENDEL BAWIS, Jr.

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 11—A privately financed institute, with generals and admirals constituting half the board of directors, is being set up on the grounds of the Air Force Academy in Colorado with the goal of promoting a dialogue between military and civilian leaders.

The Civilian-Military Institute has begun a drive to raise \$35 million to build a center that would be deeded to the academy and would also house the academy visitors' center and gift shop. The institute would then lease space in the building from the academy for a conference center, library and information center.

The institute's first national symposium, a three-day session at the academy and the nearby Broadmoor Hotel and Resort in Colorado Springs, began yesterday with about 150 business, educational and military leaders present to discuss such topics as "The Civilian-Military Partnership in the Years Ahead," "Technology and the Russian Connection," and "Maintaining and Strengthening Peace and Security Over the Next Five to Eight Years."

#### Idea Credited to Rusk

Donald R. Seawell, president and chairman of the board of The Denver Post newspaper and chairman of the institute's board of trustees, said that the idea for the institute had come from Dean Rusk, Secretary of State in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, who is currently a professor of international law at the University of Georgia Law School in Athens, Ga.

"We are not trying to build a think tank," Mr. Seawell said in a telephone interview. "And we are not trying to influence public opinion or Government policies. We are trying to provide a direct interface between the civilian and military communities, to provide a procedure for an open forum where any crucial issue can be discussed without censorship or misunderstanding."

Mr. Rusk, who was unable to attend the first symposium because of medical problems, said in a telephone interview that he and "about a dozen other people" had, for the last four or five years, been "percolating the idea" for an institute "to be located in another part of the country away from the Northeast Seaboard where think tanks are very commonplace."

#### Hopes for Forum Described

"We decided to establish in the West the kind of forum that one does not normally find elsewhere," he added. "I think we will find a range of openness, a complete freedom of ideas and discussion that will be very impressive."

Mr. Rusk said that a goal of the institute would be to "broaden people's understanding of issues, including the media's understanding," but that the news media were not a target of the institute.

H. Brian Thompson, executive director of the symposium, said that the presence of seven generals and admirals, including Gen. George S. Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the board of trustees would not influence potential defense contractors to donate money to the institute.

"The institute must be perceived as, and in fact be, above any kind of suspicion," Mr. Thompson said. "I don't think it can become a conservative think tank. It must have both liberals and conservatives involved in order to be balanced and effective."

#### Women and Blacks Sought

Randolph L. Simmons, executive vice president of the institute, said that the organization was actively seeking women and blacks to serve on the board of directors and that Representative Barbara C. Jordan, Democrat of Texas, had been invited to join the board but had declined.

Mr. Simmons, who was formerly a vice president of the National Urban Coalition, said that the organizers of the institute had "studiously avoided" any identification with "a military-industrial complex" and that they "did not want any radical involvement."

"It must not have any ideological leanings, because if it goes either left or right politically, it won't work," he said.

He said that the institute, through the Air Force Academy Foundation, had already raised more than \$2 million from private foundations and individuals and that the active military members of the board were "absolutely not involved" in the fund raising.

Mr. Simmons said that the Air Force Academy had originally wanted private help to build an aerospace education center on the academy grounds but that the leadership of the Air Force Academy Foundation had insisted on "something broader and more major."